

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent )  
application of: )  
Markus Noller et al. )  
In Continuation of International )  
Application No. PCT/EP00/07550 )  
Filed August 3, 2000 )  
DEVICE FOR EXTRUDING PLASTIC )  
COMPOUNDS ) January 23, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

As a Preliminary Amendment to the above-referenced Application, please enter the following amendments prior to computing the filing fees therefore.

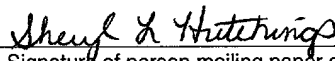
**IN THE CLAIMS :**

**Please amend claims 3, 5, 6 and 7 as follows:**

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Signature of person mailing paper or fee

We claim:

3. Device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the measured variable is the flow rate of the compound.

5. Device according to Claim 1, 2, or 3, characterised in that

- the device (10) comprises a transport instrument (16) for removing the compound extruded from the die (14),

- the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c) is operatively coupled to a/the control instrument (62), and

- the control instrument (62) is capable of controlling the transport instrument (16), as a function of at least one measured value determined by the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c), in such a way that the transport velocity ( $v_t$ ) of the transport instrument (16) corresponds to the exit velocity ( $v_s$ ) of the compound from the die (14).

6. Device according to Claim 1, 2, or 3, characterised in that

- the device (10) comprises a rotary instrument (26) having at least one rotatable die (14),

- the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c) is operatively coupled to a/the control instrument (62), and

- the control instrument (62) is capable of controlling the rotary instrument (26), as a function of at least one measured value determined by the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c), in such a way that the exit velocity ( $v_s$ ) of the compound from the die (14) fluctuates minimally.

7. Device according to Claim 1, 2, or 3, characterised in that

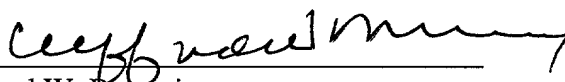
- a feed instrument (12) is connected through a plurality of channels (24a ; 24b ; 24c) to a die (14) having a plurality of outlet openings, and

- a sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c) is in each case arranged at the channels (24a ; 24b ; 24c) or at the outlet openings of the die (14).

**REMARKS**

Attached hereto are pages 5-6 that present a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by this preliminary amendment. Page 5 is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

**Claims 3, 5, 6 and 7 have been amended as follows:**

[Patent Claims] We claim:

3. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1 [or 2], characterised in that the measured variable is the flow rate of the compound.

5. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, 2, or 3 [or 4], characterised in that

- the device (10) comprises a transport instrument (16) for removing the compound extruded from the die (14),
- the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c) is operatively coupled to a/the control instrument (62), and
- the control instrument (62) is capable of controlling the transport instrument (16), as a function of at least one measured value determined by the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c), in such a way that the transport velocity ( $v_t$ ) of the transport instrument (16) corresponds to the exit velocity ( $v_s$ ) of the compound from the die (14).

6. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, 2, or 3, [4 or 5] characterised in that

- the device (10) comprises a rotary instrument (26) having at least one rotatable die (14),
- the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c) is operatively coupled to a/the control instrument (62), and
- the control instrument (62) is capable of controlling the rotary instrument (26), as a function of at least one measured value determined by the sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c), in such a way that the exit velocity ( $v_s$ ) of the compound from the die (14) fluctuates minimally.

7. (Amended) Device according to Claim 1, 2, or 3, [4, 5 or 6] characterised in that

- a feed instrument (12) is connected through a plurality of channels (24a ; 24b ; 24c)  
to a die (14) having a plurality of outlet openings, and

- a sensing instrument (60a ; 60b ; 60c) is in each case arranged at the channels (24a ;  
24b ; 24c) or at the outlet openings of the die (14).

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